

STIKEMAN ELLIOTTREMARKS

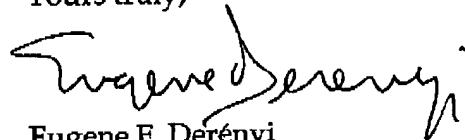
In response to the objection to the Abstract, the Abstract has been amended to remove the "said" legal phraseology to make it more clear.

In response to the rejection under 35 U.S.C. 112, claim 13 has been amended by replacing "well" with "depression".

In response to the rejection of claims 1, 4, 9 and 11-14 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b), claim 1 has been amended to specify that the wear indicator extends "part way through the pad" and claim 11 has been amended to specify that the wear indicator is "extending into the pad". It is submitted that amended claims 1 and 11 distinguish over Steeber. Steeber teaches wear indicators which are raised whereas the wear indicator of the present invention is not raised but extends through or into the pad. It is submitted that in light of the amendments to claims 1 and 11, dependent claims 4, 9 and 12-14 are now allowable.

With respect to claims 2, 3, 5 to 8 and 10, the Applicant thanks the Examiner for the indication of allowability claims 5 and 6 have been cancelled because they are identical to claims 2 and 3. In light of the amendments to claim 1, it is submitted that claims 2, 3, 7, 8 and 10, being dependent on claim 1, are now allowable. In addition, the subject matter of claims 2, 3, 7, 8 and 10 have also been included in new claims 15 to 19, which have been made dependent on amended claim 11.

Yours truly,

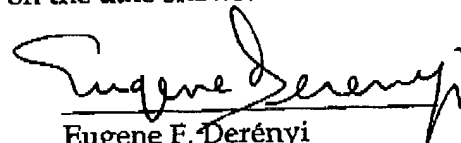


Eugene F. Derényi  
Reg. No. 52,409

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I hereby certify that this paper is being facsimile transmitted to the United States Patent and Trademark Office on the date shown below.

July 15, 2004  
Date



Eugene F. Derényi  
Reg. No. 52,409